VIETNAM COURIER

March 16 1970

No. 260

7th Year

Information Weekly — E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

In this issue:

FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS, ESSENTIAL TASKS

by LE DUAN

IV. HOW TO BUILD SOCIALISM

DRVN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE LAO PROBLEM

ON March 6, 1970, the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front issued a statement proposing a political settlement of the Lao problem with a view to putting an end to the US war and restoring peace in Laos.

As already pointed out in the May 1965 Memorandum of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, ever since the end of World War II, the United States has been carrying out a policy of intervention and aggression in Laos and in other countries of the Indochinese peninsula. It has systematically been sabotaging the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, has toppled the National Union Government of Laos, installed the present stooge Vientiane administration and has been waging a "special war" in Laos. Notably, since President Nixon took office, it has been escalating the war in that country with increased obstinacy, it has launched repeated attacks against the liberated zone with troops of the puppet army, it has been stepping up the use of its modern air force including B.52 strategic bombers for annihilation bombardments on Lao territory, thus perpetrating extremely odious crimes against the Lao people.

In face of these obvious facts and the wave of protest from American and world public opinion, US President Nixon had to admit on March 6, 1970 that over the past six years, there had been "growing US involvement" in Laos. He recognized that the US had bombed Lao territory in "support" of the puppet army's encroaching raids on the areas under the control of the Lao patriotic forces, and that it had used Lao territory for the purposes of its aggressive war in Viet Nam.

But Mr. Nixon misrepresented the situation in Laos and tried to justify US aggression against that country by slandering the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

His perfidious allegation cannot, however, conceal the fact of continued US escalation in Laos, which has caused a serious deterioration of the situation in that country, and jeopardized peace and security in Indochina and South-East Asia.

(Continued page 2)

MARCH 19: Day of National Resistance Against US Imperialists

FIRST U.S. SETBACK IN VIET NAM

NGUYEN HUU THO

EDITOR'S NOTE — *On March 19, 1950 the US Pacific Fleet decided to show the flag in Saigon in support of the French colonialists in their war of reconquest in Viet Nam and Indochina.*

A mass demonstration with the participation of half a million Saigonese under the leadership of a well-known young lawyer forced the American ships to turn tail and call off the planned action. This patriotic intellectual was NGUYEN HUU THO, the present Chairman of the NFL and of the Advisory Council to the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

During his recent visit to North Viet Nam, we requested him to reminisce on that memorable day of 1950. We publish below the full text of the interview.

I was a lawyer in Saigon at the time. I acted as counsel, at the permanent military tribunal set up by the French Expeditionary Corps in the Far-East (CEFEO), for the patriots arrested by the police or captured during military operations. The colonialists called them "terrorists" or "rebels"! My sympathies naturally were with the Resistance. My conviction was strengthened day by day, partly because of my frequent contacts with my friends in the jungle, and also by the heroism displayed by my clients before the "justice" of the enemy. Many, at the risk of their own lives, transformed their trials into fiery denunciations of the colonialist war, baffling their "prosecutors" into confounded defendants. Others died as martyrs before the firing squad with such a courage and serenity as could be instilled into them only by a just cause.

At that time, the Saigon population already had appointed a "Delegation of Representatives of Saigonese" the recognition of which they forced the colonial authorities. The task of the Delegation was to realize a broad united front to struggle for democratic rights. This semi-legal organization wielded great influence with all social segments whose representatives took part in its executive committee. There were lawyers, teachers, doctors, journalists, students, workers, industrialists, traders and even functionaries of the administration. I took an active part in it in my capacity as head of the Delegation.

— What did people think of the USA?

THOSE politically knowledgeable had seen the true nature of US imperialism, "natural ally" of the colonialists. American propaganda however had succeeded to some extent in sowing confusion in the minds, especially of those who more or less kept aloof from the social effervescence. Some intellectuals in Saigon even nurtured illusion about the

(Continued page 6)

Demonstrators taking logs from a goods train stranded in the heart of the city to barricade Boulevard de la Somme near Saigon Central Market

DRVN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE LAO PROBLEM

(Continued page 1)

In its March 6, 1970 statement, the Lao Patriotic Front affirmed the necessity of ending this grave situation and put forth a proposal for political settlement of the Lao problem.

According to the position of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao problem must be solved on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreements and the realities of the present situation in Laos: the US must put an end to its intervention and aggression in that country; Laos must enjoy genuine independence, peace and neutrality. Concerning the internal affairs of Laos, free and democratic elections shall be held, national concord achieved, the country unified, and the throne respected. During the period from the restoration of peace to the general elections, "a political consultative conference composed of representatives of all Lao parties concerned shall be held in order to deal with all the affairs of Laos, and set up a provisional coalition government;" pending unification of Laos, "no party shall use force to encroach upon, or nibble at, the areas controlled by another."

The Lao Patriotic Front stressed: "The Lao problem must be settled among the Lao parties concerned. To make it possible for the Lao parties concerned to meet, the United States must, as an immediate step, stop escalating the war, and stop completely the bombing of Lao territory without laying down any condition."

The political solution proposed by the Lao Patriotic Front constitutes a very important initiative which clearly evidences its goodwill and consistent desire for peace and national concord with a view to building a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos. The five points of this political solution are very logical and reasonable, meet the Lao people's cherished aspirations and are fully consonant with the interests of peace and security in Indochina and South-East Asia.

As a signatory to the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has always respected and seriously implemented the Agreements, and has always been desirous of developing friendly and good-neighbour relations with the Kingdom of Laos on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam unreservedly upholds the Lao people's legitimate right to self-defence, and warmly hails the great successes they have recorded in the just struggle to defend the liberated zone and their punishing blows at the encroaching attacks of the US aggressors and their agents.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam warmly welcomes and unreservedly supports the March 6, 1970 statement by the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front proposing a political settlement of the Lao problem.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam firmly insists that the US Government strictly respect and seriously implement the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, end its intervention and aggression in Laos, stop using the Lao territory for the purposes of its aggressive war in Viet Nam. First of all the US must stop escalating the war in Laos, completely and unconditionally cease the bombing of the Lao territory, and let the Lao parties concerned settle among themselves its internal affairs.

If the US and the Vientiane Administration obstinately keep escalating the war in Laos, they will have to bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their war acts.

Hanoi, March 9, 1970

LET'S DEFEND OUR MILITANT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE

Commentary by Nhan Dan, *March 14, 1970*

OVER recent days, a number of saboteurs in Cambodia have engineered acts detrimental to the friendship between the Vietnamese and Cambodian governments and peoples.

On March 11, they sacked the embassies of the South Viet Nam Republic and the DRVN and the offices of Viet Nam News Agency and of the commercial delegation of the DRVN in Phnom Penh and manhandled Vietnamese personnel. Afterwards, they looted and sacked a number of shops and houses and a church of Vietnamese residents in the Cambodian capital.

According to foreign reports, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has expressed his "deep sadness" at these happenings. Talking in a French television network interview, the Cambodian Head of State declared that the right had profited from his long absence caused by his state of health to try to change the political and ideological orientation of Cambodia and to force Cambodia into "the American camp." Samdech Norodom Sihanouk asserted: "There have certainly been contacts between the Americans and the Cambodian right wing. The United States would like to penetrate into Cambodia to change the country's politics and ideology."

These statements of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk exposed the dark designs of the US imperialists and threw light on the origin of the current complex situation in Cambodia. For many years now, the US imperialists have unceasingly carried out intervention and aggression against the countries in Indochina. Faced with the strength of militant solidarity of the Cambodian, Lao and Vietnamese peoples, they have suffered heavy defeats, but still remain very obdurate in their scheme to materialize the so-called "Nixon doctrine" of putting Asians against Asians, dividing the peoples of the three Indochinese countries and provoking national enmity between the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples in an attempt to achieve what they cannot by means of the US expeditionary corps.

With regard to Cambodia, just as Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has stated, what the US wants is to change the present policy of Cambodia, the policy of peace and neutrality, of defending Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and of solidarity and friendship with Cambodia's neighbours on the Indochinese peninsula in the struggle against the common enemy — the US imperialist aggressors.

Under the clearsighted leadership of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, strictly keeping to the road charted by him, the Cambodian people have not ceased to resist the threats and encroachments by the US imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Nam and Thailand. They have encouraged and actively supported the Vietnamese people in their resistance for national salvation, fully supported the just stand of the DRVN and the RSVN PRG, demanding the total and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people are sincerely grateful for and highly value this precious support. For their part, the Vietnamese people regard the Cambodian people as their close neighbours and brothers, their comrades-in-arms against the common enemy, the US imperialist aggressors. The Government of the DRVN and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam fully support the correct and just stand of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and are resolved to carry out a policy of good neighbourhood with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders and to build lasting relations of friendship with the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The recent odious acts of the saboteurs obviously ran counter to the correct policy of the two countries and to the aspirations and long-term interests of the two peoples.

Keeping a vigilant eye on the perfidious schemes of the US imperialists while remaining calm in face of the acts of sabotage and provocation, the Vietnamese people including the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, are determined to defend and strengthen their militant solidarity with the Cambodian people and together with them spearhead their struggle against the US imperialist aggressors, the most dangerous enemy of the peoples of the two countries.

58th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (March 12, 1970)

MR. NIXON'S BELLICOSITY BARED

SPEAKING at the 58th session of the Paris Conference on behalf of the delegation of the DRVN Government, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy denounced the recent deeds of the Nixon Administration as not matching its words. While repeatedly claiming that it wanted to peacefully settle the Viet Nam issue, the Nixon Administration has been feverishly carrying out "Vietnamization," stepping up its military activities and terrorist raids in South Viet Nam, the DRVN negotiator said. He also exposed the Nixon Administration's increased violations of the sovereignty of the DRVN. In February alone, there were 850 reconnaissance missions by US planes with 1,350 sorties, an increase of 110 missions and 190 sorties as compared with January. The number of US air raids in North Viet Nam amounted to 130 in February, three times that in January. Particularly serious were the 20 fierce bombings by B. 52s of a number of areas in Vinh Linh area and Quang Binh province. Moreover, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy added, artillery guns based in South Viet Nam shelled 43 times the communes lying within the northern part of the Demilitarized Zone while US warships continued to threaten the coastal area of North Viet Nam, from Thanh Hoa province to the 17th parallel.

Along with the abovementioned acts in Viet Nam, the Nixon administration has escalated the war in Laos, seriously jeopardizing peace in Indo-China and South-East Asia, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy said. The DRVN Delegation spokesman said the March 6 statement of President Nixon was an open admission — though only partial — of the fact that for years now the US had directly taken part in the war in Laos and been committing aircraft including B. 52s to an air war against the Lao patriotic forces, distorting the truth and slandering the DRVN. Quoting the March 6 statement of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front proposing a political solution to the Lao problem and the March 9 statement of the DRVN Government in support of the LPF statement, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy pointed out that the origin of the present tension in Laos lay in the US escalation of the aggressive war; that is why, to settle the Lao problem, the US must stop its aggression and intervention, and first of all, stop escalating the war in Laos, completely and unconditionally put an end to its bombardments against the territory of Laos, so that the parties concerned in Laos might settle among themselves the internal affairs of Laos.

What the Nixon administration has been doing in Viet Nam and in Laos only lays bare its utterly warlike nature, the DRVN representative concluded.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS NAMED AFTER PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

COMPLYING with a proposal by the Viet Nam Working Youth Union, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party had decided the following:

— The Viet Nam Working Youth Union is from now on called the Ho Chi Minh Working Youth Union;

— The Viet Nam Young Pioneers' Organization is from now on called the Ho Chi Minh Young Pioneers' Organization;

— The Viet Nam Children's Organization is from now on called the Ho Chi Minh Children's Organization.

In a resolution taken in connection with this decision, the Central Committee stressed that "President Ho Chi Minh's image, his great ideal, his noble cause and his radiant revolutionary virtues will be for ever the bright example and source of strong encouragement for the younger generations of our country."

"Uncle Ho was deeply concerned with the training and education of young people into a shock force of the revolution and reserve force of the Party" the resolution went on. "He recommended the Party to attend to the education and training of youth into successors in the building of socialism and communism. In his last message, he said: "The training and education of future revolutionary generations is of great importance and necessity." The ardent desire of the younger generations of our country is to learn and train themselves after Uncle Ho's example into loyal and brilliant successors of the cause championed by him and the Party.

"The naming after Uncle Ho of the Viet Nam Working Youth Union, the Young Pioneers' Organization and Children's Organization is a very great honour and responsibility of the younger generations of our country."

On this occasion, the Party's Central Committee "calls on all the Vietnamese youth, men and women, young pioneers and children, to follow Uncle Ho's example by dedicating all their lives to the struggle for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for socialism and communism and to learn from his thought, virtues and style of work".

STORY OF A FARMING CO-OPERATIVE

(Continued)

WITH a broad gesture, the co-op chairman shows us an extensive view of the fields of his co-op. Water-filled and sun-bathed ricefields stretch before us. Large compartments—regular squares, are divided into flat, rectangular plots, with tiny dikes cutting at right angle. Rows of straight planted rice checker the green carpet of *azolla*. Here and there, patches of spring rice stand out against this green symphony of rice and azolla.

Everywhere is water. Water threads a long ribbon between the two banks, lined with casuarina trees and gumtrees, to an elevated canal. It runs down into side ducts, flows through the ditches and reaches to the feet of rice plants, guided by man's hand.

We are not tired of contemplating this restful scene of peace, order and labour. The picture is always new to those, like us, are accustomed to see the Vietnamese countryside of yesterday patterned with its mosaic of tiny plots with their tortuous dykes. In this season, we would have seen parched ricefields lying fallow. There comes back to our mind the image of our mothers getting up long before cock-crow to dispute water from a rare pond, scoop it out bucket by bucket, and bring it to their fields through jealously guarded dikes. Because of water, the villages brought unending law suits against one another and even came to blows. If ever a prolonged drought occurred, all the people could do was to turn to Heaven. They burned ex-voto, sacrificed buffaloes and pigs, and held long processions to secure the favour of the genies. In the rainy season, there was the opposite scourge. It happened that a river dyke broke. Then whole districts disappeared under the water. People went, in file, begging along the colonial routes. Those who still had some savings, made for the cities and ended up by becoming indentured labourers in rubber plantations in the South or in the far-off mines in New Caledonia...

Spraying of insecticides to protect ricecrop

TAMING THE WATER

AT Ngo Xuyen, this past is not so remote.

In 1956, a serious drought happened. The peasants drained pools scattered among the fields. However, the water was hardly enough for some nearby ricefields.

Even up to the end of 1962, two-thirds of the lands remained dry for 6 months of the year. The other third was flooded in the rainy season. If a drought of a rain dragged on, the fields were left uncultivated or rice rotted on the spot. For centuries, the crops had been subjected to climatic hazards without any way out. At the beginning of 1963 when the co-op was set on foot, its first preoccupation was to tackle hydraulic work.

The same problem had been raised in all of the DRVN and in Hung Yen province, in particular.

An aqueduct was built in 1958 by the Government at Xuan Quan on the Red River dyke. For the first time, the water of the river, so rich in silt, was used for irrigating ricefields in Hung Yen and two other provinces. It is the Bac Hung Hai system.

In 1960-1961, the *Dinh Du* canal, an ancient canal abandoned for centuries and running past Ngo Xuyen, was dredged, enlarged and connected to this system. End 1962, a pumping station was installed, catering for Hung Yen's Northern districts, including Ngo Xuyen. The station lifted the water from the *Dinh Du* to a new elevated canal which cuts across Ngo Xuyen's ricefields.

The problem which arose at the co-op at the beginning of 1963 was to participate in the district hydraulic planning to set up its own hydraulic network and to branch it on the general circuit.

Started in 1963, this work necessitated 30,000 workdays, 12,000 in 1966 alone. Within living memory, at no time had people at Ngo Xuyen ever spent so much effort to give a solution so radical, to the problem of water. In 1964, with the help of old farmers, they worked on defining the level lines and demarcating the compartments with differing gradation. They levelled the irregularities and divided the compartments in rectangular parcels about 1,000 sq. feet each. That is the optimum dimension for irrigation and indifferently mechanised work. Old terraces were replaced by new ones. Side canals were dug to bring water from the main canal to the compartments. The ditches took it to each plot.

The *Dinh Du* was also enlarged and deepened to serve draining work. A sluicegate was built across the former canal to prevent, when it was overfilled, the water from rising and flooding the ricefields. From 1965, it carried a concrete bridge crosswise giving access to the village.

Hydraulic planning has been carried out in co-ordination with the opening of new communication lines or the rectification of the lay out of the old tracks to ensure the transport of materiel from the village to the fields by means of improved hand-carts. Trees have been planted on the roadside. These efforts have helped, not only to facelift Ngo Xuyen but also to master the water. In fact, at Ngo Xuyen, the water has been mastered, at the level of each plot. The fields there have been 100 per cent irrigated, 85% by rational flow. Drainage is sufficient, even in case of prolonged heavy rains.

FROM MONOCULTURE TO A DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE

THE problem of water having been solved, increased production comes to the fore. Hydraulic planning has made possible intensification of rice cultivation and diversification of crops.

Autumn rice covers all the lands of the co-op, or 76.2 ha. 45.3 ha are put under a second Winter-Spring rice-crop, 27.3 ha are grown, instead of this second rice crop, with subsidiary crops which are sweet potato or potato, then successively vegetables and an industrial crop: pea-nut. 3.6 ha serve as soving plots for rice, then an azolla-growing drives. As for rice, the acreage went up from 88.8 ha (246 *mau* 8 *sao*) in 1961 to 112.6 ha (312 *mau* 8 *sao*) in 1966, an increase of 26.8 per cent. Rice yield rose from 4,238 kg/ha to 5,512 kg/ha, or a 30% gain, and total output from 195.79 tons to 307.07 tons (a 57.14% rise). Since 1966, the co-op has hit the target of 5 tons of paddy rice per hectare per year (2 crops). In 1967, better climatic conditions helped raise this yield to 6 tons/ha. In 1969, Autumn rice suffered from a disease, the "green sickness", yet the average yearly output did not fall below 5 tons/ha. Thus, at Ngo Xuyen, the average annual productivity is stabilised around 5 tons/ha. This is a significant figure if one remembers that under colonialism, a ha brought in 1.3 tons per crop.

As for sweet potato, the acreage and output have been on the upgrade.

	Acreage	Output
1961	7 ha	32 tons
1969	15 ha	94.58 tons

The yield is up from 4,570 kg/ha to 6,288 kg/ha. Half of the output is used as fodder for pigs of the community, the other half distributed to co-op farmers.

(Continued page 9)

FIRST AMERICAN SETBACK IN VIET NAM

(Continued from page 1)

US. After all, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen originated in the United States. America was regarded as the land of affluence, generosity, liberty, democracy... a country "where everybody had equal opportunity to become a millionnaire or president," etc. The United States had granted "independence" to the Philippines. The hatred for French colonialism made certain people more sensitive to the American propaganda. The events of March 1950 served as an eye-opener to them.

First, our vigilance had been kept awake by the growing sympathy of Washington with French colonialism, especially after the collapse of the Chiang Kai-shek regime. The collusion between Washington and Paris on the Vietnamese issue became more and more apparent. The successes of the Resistance further strengthened our faith in the just cause and its victory.

At this juncture, an important shipment of US tanks, cannons and war material arrived in February in Saigon. People learnt through the press that Washington had officially authorized Paris to utilize American weapons against the Resistance. "How many of our best sons will fall to those US weapons?" some wondered. "The friend of your foe is your foe," others decided. The hatred for the French colonialists was compounded by that for their financier, the Yankee imperialists. It only waited for an opportunity to flare up. It was at that time that the Consulate of the US in Saigon announced a forthcoming "good will" visit of the US Pacific Fleet and extolled the "comradeship" and the "identity of goals" between the French Expeditionary Corps and the US armed forces. An aero-naval show of strength was planned by the guests in an unmistakable attempt to intimidate the Resistance.

The mask dropped. In the eyes of the Saigonese, the potential enemy – Yankee imperialism – had shown its face clearly behind the chief enemy at the time, French colonialism. The Vietnamese people rather early realized who their most dangerous enemy was, which, in my opinion, was of great importance for their liberation struggle.

— How did things happen afterward?

— ON March 18, the US fleet sailed into the Vietnamese waters. A group of aircraft-carriers cruised off the coast. Two destroyers bearing numbers 838 and 762 — the *Stickell* and *Anderson* — if I remember well, bedecked with American flags, turned up on the Saigon River and cast anchor at the military port. The streets were decorated with French and American flags for the occasion. Sailors of the US Navy soon appeared in the fashionable streets. The colonialists were jubilant while the Saigonese watched the scene with rage in their hearts.

Saigon took up the challenge. Popular riposte was organised under the sponsorship of the "Delegation of Representatives of Saigonese." A demonstration was planned for the 19th to protest against this naked American intervention in support of the colonialists.

We took necessary precaution to cope with police actions. Streamers, placards and flags were prepared in the night.

In the small hours of March 19, when the curfew was still on, the town was waked up by explosions: a mortaring was mounted by the people's armed forces against military targets in Saigon. Some of the shells fell not far from the anchored American battleships. We told one another that the day had been off to a good start, the men of the jungle had come to our help.

At dawn, crowds thronged the streets more and more. Cordons of police barred the streets leading to the Ton Tho Tuong school near the Central Market in the heart of Saigon.

At 8 hours, I arrived at the gate of the school, my car preceded another carrying the other members of the Delegation. A big throng already filled the large playground and the neighbouring streets. People kept streaming in. The forces of "law and order" had more on their plates than they could deal with. Many Vietnamese policemen perfunctorily performed their duty. Some even protested their sympathy with the demonstration.

A guard composed of young workers and students was presently formed around our cars. We thus went escorted to the rostrum where microphones had been kept ready. Hardly had I began to speak when police charged with tear grenades. The demonstration turned into a riot. A mammoth parade was immediately organized. A big yellow-starred red flag, that of the Resistance, was displayed at the head of the main column in which I marched beside the other members of the Delegation. The placards read: "Down with French colonialism!", "Down with the puppet!" Others bearing the slogan "Down with the US interventionists!" made their first appearance. Somebody had hung across a street a streamer with the inscriptions "Long live the HO CHI MINH government!"

The main column followed the street leading to the Central Market. Others fanned out in different directions of the town. The marchers chanted "Yankee-go-home!", "Yan-kee-go-home!" On their way the crowds pulled down and burnt on the roadways the posters and placards of the colonialist propaganda. Climbers mounted on top of the flag posts and the facades of public buildings and pulled down and tore up French, American and puppet flags. Police dared not react. Its men fought in retreat or simply dispersed. Some took off their uniforms and joined the demonstrators. Roadblocks were put up here and there, with bus and trams parked across the streets, furniture taken from administrative offices or offered by individuals. An engine driver brought to a halt a long merchandise train the flat cars of which supplied firewood logs as weapons to the demonstrators. Colonialist officers attempted to interfere with the demonstration. One of them drove his car into the crowd: he was beaten up and his car burnt down. Another tried to wrest a flag from a demonstrator. He was fatally wounded. The crowd attacked only those armymen and policemen who had indulged in provocations. American sailors who strolled along the streets were greeted with hostile boos and hoots and chased up to their ships.

Throughout the day, the crowds, unarmed though, practically seized control of the town. They had swept away all opposition of the enemy. It is to be remembered that Saigon was the vital centre where the military and political force of the colonialists and puppets was concentrated. The enemy had been obviously caught off guard, paralysed by the violence of the demonstration. The Americans, seized with panic, had weighed anchor and left without demur in the dead of the night. The visit had lasted only a little more than 24 hours and the planned show of the flag never took place. Our victory was complete.

As one who had a share in this first American setback, I have drawn some lessons which, in my opinion, are still valid today: To know early and thoroughly who one's enemy is in order not to let oneself be duped by his subterfuges nor intimidated by his apparent power; to strengthen and broaden continually the national united bloc and isolate the chief enemy to the highest degree; to have absolute confidence in the immense forces of the people.

Today, our struggle is being waged in different and much more favourable conditions. The conscience of the masses has reached a point where revolutionary heroism has become part and parcel of the daily life of the people. People's war has been brought to a degree never and nowhere else reached. We command battle-hardened armed and political forces with a firmer sense of purpose than ever. We have a solid rear base which is the socialist North. We enjoy an immense support and universal solidarity from the socialist countries, the national liberation movement and progressive forces all over the world.

The fighting spirit of March 19 remains more vivid now than ever. The successes recorded in the past years, especially since the general offensives and uprisings in 1968, prove that the lessons of the past have been turned to account and will lead to still more important successes. The day is not far off when we shall completely liberate the South from American occupation and make it an independent, democratic, prosperous, peaceful and neutral State and shall ultimately achieve reunification of the Vietnamese land.

Recorded by HOANG XUAN BINH

SON MY Two Years Ago

Wallace : *How many people did you round up?*

Meadlo : Well, there was about 40 to 45 people that we gathered in the centre of the village... It was like a little island.

Wallace: *What kind of people — men, women, children?*

Meadlo : Men, women, children.

Wallace : *Babies?*

Meadlo : Babies... we made them squat down, and Lieutenant Calley came over and said: "You know what to do with them, don't you?"

I said: Yes. I took it for granted that he just wanted us to watch them.

He left and came back about 10 minutes and said:

"How come you haven't killed them yet?" I told him: "I don't think you wanted us to kill them, that you just wanted us to guard them."

He said: "No, I wanted them dead."

(**Meadlo,** *a GI who had taken part in the Son My massacre, viewed by* CBS *correspondent* **Wallace.**)

and the Carnage Continues...

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Professor **LE VAN HAO**
President of the Hue Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces

I was then fifteen years old. In Saigon, the colonialists murdered Tran Van ON, and the city was in the throes of anti-American demonstrations.

Urban bourgeois children brought up in Catholic and French schools like me knew very little about the Resistance; and the movements launched in the towns against Bao Dai and US intervention were events the meaning of which we did not grasp. Our families inculcated into us prejudices not so favourable to the Resistance and "communism" and forbade us to indulge in any activities likely to get them into trouble. At fifteen, these ideas seemed to us unassailable. The enthusiasm of the years 1945-1946 was no longer there.

I afterwards spent over ten years abroad, engrossed in the study of French and Western culture, arts, sciences and humanism, without paying much attention to the political situation in my country. However through my friends and acquaintances I learnt of such massacres as that of Phu Loi, and came to know the names of Nguyen Huu Tho and Le Quang Vinh, the renewed guerilla war as well as the savage persecution of a religion which my people hold in general esteem. The self-immolation by fire of Reverend Thich Quang Duc in 1963 gave me a shock and drove me out of my ivory tower haloed by a faint verbal humanism. I began to doubt the meaning of independence and democratic liberties under the Diem regime and the role played by the American advisors in South Viet Nam. The events reported by Western press from autumn 1963 to winter 1964 were rather disheartening for me. No notable change, only a Diem regime without Diem and an ever more numerous presence of Americans. Some time before his assassination, Kennedy sent 25,000 men to our country. The GIs began to make their appearance on TV screens as combatants in the "special war" in our countryside. We were dismayed. Once again the war played havoc in our country. Why did US troops come to "defend the freedom" of the South Vietnamese? And why American GIs and French legionnaires were as like as two peas?

The Maddox *incident, then the bombardment of the DRVN, took place, the images of the US war of destruction in the North, of the guerilla and counter-guerilla warfare which inflicted so much suffering on the South Viet Nam people, stirred me up. I began suspecting America's good intentions. Why perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam, why destroy the North with bombs and kill so many of my fellow-countrymen in the South?*

In summer 1965, I returned to Saigon after twelve years' absence. Tan Son Nhut airbase was full of US choppers and fighter-bombers. The GIs were strolling about in the airfield, in the suburbs and in the town. Everywhere in the streets, there were barbed-wire entanglements, armoured cars and other motorized vehicles. Policemen and military police were swarming in S gon, plunged in the hot and dirt. The face of embattled Saigon never ceased haunting me; the drone of jet planes roused my hatred for the Yankees. What the US has been waging against my country has been a large-scale war, a war of aggression and not a civil war against communism to defend freedom, as noisily claimed the psychowar machinery. In the towns and cities I lived from 1965 to 1967, not a single voice was allowed to be raised against the American aggressors, not one open manifestation of sympathy with the NFL could sooner or later escape repression. However, enmity against the Yankees and opposition to their ventures as well as contempt of the quislings Thieu and Ky were burning in all hearts: the manual labourer, the street vendor, the taxi-driver, the pedicabman, the street-sweeper, harboured a bitter hatred because they were reduced by US aid and Saigon impossible economic policy to a systematic poverty. Amidst the misery of the people, the lavishness and squandering of the GIs, high-ranking officials and comprador bourgeois who feathered their own nests with the war, were offending us. First-rate buildings, luxury goods and foodstuffs were available for them who possessed huge fortunes in dollars and piastres and who spent money with no regard for high prices, and the starvation wages of minor officials, employees and the public at large.

Social scourges were rife. "Hooliganism" and prostitution were rampant in Saigon, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon,... among youngsters, victims of misery, unemployment and war. We were disheartened to see swarms of GIs upsetting all social life. The moral and spiritual qualities of our people, the dignity of our customs were utterly brutalized. Sexy literature and that extolling violence swamped urban centres, corrupting the minds of the young. Many honest families were driven to crime; boys became mercenaries, policemen, or secret agents; girls sell their bodies to the GIs.

Misery, decadence and crime: this implacable trilogy constantly beset me. Before realizing that the US was a predatory imperialism, responsible for an aggression and genocide against our people, I was horrified to discover that it had in cold blood impoverished and corrupted the Vietnamese society. The Yankee imperialists are heartless, immoral and barbarous people; they run over pedestrians, manhandle our fellow-countrymen in the streets; they are swindlers and thieves, offend our dignity, turn our boys into assassins and our girls into whores; the Vietnamese intellectuals will never forgive them all that. I became alive to national consciousness and patriotism. Of course, the Yankee aggressors and their lackeys did know that opposition was mounting. They therefore, played a double game, cracking down violently on the toiling masses while deluding them, buying off the conscience of the intelligentsia with money, honours and titles. Some credulous people were willy nilly taken in. But most progressive people who enjoyed a unanimous credit saw through their intention.

Little by little I come to understand what neo-colonialism in its many facets was, and how with its machiavellian economic, political and cultural policy it ended in aggression and genocide. I also realized a dogged resistance was put up against the US imperialists by the broad masses; I witnessed millions of people rising up to fight for their freedom and welfare, and the respect of human and national dignity.

I could no longer wait. I have thrown in my lot with my people and thus found myself among the progressive intellectuals, workers and peasants.

More than ever, I am sanguine about the future of my people. With their quadri-millenary history, and tremendous forces, they will wrest back freedom and drive out all aggressors.

Left : *Colonialists' propaganda materials burnt in Cuniac Square, opposite the Central Market in Saigon*

Centre : *US destroyers* Stickell *and* Anderson *swinging at anchor at Saigon military harbour on March 18, 1950*

◀ *A demonstrator pulling down in front of a public building the puppet flag which eventually was torn up by the crowd*

LAOS BASE AS SEEN by Western Journalists

ON Feb. 17, two correspondents of the *New York Times* and *Life* and one of *AFP* succeeded in coming to Long Cheng, a secret base of US-hired general Vang Pao's "Special Forces," Southwest of the Plain of Jars. Although they spent only two hours at the base and their travel notes were confiscated by the authorities, they later related what they had seen at Long Cheng and their report cast some light on the scope and extent of US armed intervention in Laos.

Timothy Allman, correspondent of the *New York Times*, wrote: "We found the Long Cheng airfield to be the nucleus of an American mini-base in the heart of the craggy limestone." He said the airstrip was an all-weather runway equipped with night landing lights. "At least 6 An America DC 3s and *Caribou* transports were parked beside the runway."

Allman wrote: "Besides there were 3 unmarked *Jolly Green Giant* helicopters" which Allman called "living proof that US troops bomb Laos." "Their crews are always on the stand-by to fly off to rescue downed American bomber pilots." Allman added, "The *Jolly Green Giant* were largely unmarked, though their American crews wore US air force flights uniforms."

"We calculated an American aircraft landed or took off each minute. US helicopters and airplanes were stacked in a holding pattern above the valley, waiting to land." There were numerous radio antennae at Long Cheng, some atop Laotian military buildings but most "sprout from CIA houses which are easily recognized by the air conditioners protruding from windowless buildings."

Max Coiffat, *AFP* correspondent in Vientiane, wrote: "Long Cheng, Laos second city with a population of 40,000, is the most closely guarded secret in the country. Situated some 50km southwest of the Plain of Jars, it has risen, thanks to the United States, from the bare earth in just ten years. The town is basically a collection of straw huts, built in a large circle, but with ample evidence of American occupation — concrete built constructions boasting air conditioning," the French journalist said. He added that he saw three *Jolly Green Giant* helicopters, two without registration marks and the third bearing the American star, and three light target-markers planes need in heavy bombing missions. He also saw 6 transport craft all with the "private" American airforce insignia, ten American T-28 bombers operated by Laotian forces, being checked by US mechanics, and one helicopter, the only craft in Laotian combat colours.

Max Coiffat continued, "After this rapid inspection, two Laotian military jeeps pulled up and we were asked by a Laotian colonel to climb in. We had just started moving when an American civilian, aged about 40, stopped us. He first asked us for our cameras but we were not carrying any photographic equipment, and then demanded our notebooks. We were driven into the base itself and the Laotian colonel requested if he could take a photograph of us. I started talking to him at that point, but the American interrupted, ordering him in French not to answer any questions."

Max Coiffat further reported that "upon this, Timothy Allman replied that as long as the United States continued to try to hide its participation in Laos there would be journalists attempting to find out about it."

White House Admits GI Participation in Lao War

GERALD Warren, White House press secretary, was quoted by *UPI* as saying on March 8 that J. Bush, a captain of the US army, and 26 other Americans had been killed in a mission in Laos.

This was an admission of the direct participation of GIs in sweeps and terrorist raids against the Lao people.

G. Warren was forced to make such acknowledgement after the *Los Angeles Times* had announced that Captain Bush, an adviser to the Laotian Royal Army (mercenary of the US), had been killed in action in Laos.

To justify Mr. Nixon's denial on March 6 that no American had been killed in land operations in Laos, Warren said that Nixon had not been aware of Bush's death at the time of the statement.

Strict orders were given later by the White House to the Pentagon to publish figures of US civilian and military casualties in Laos. Announcing this on March 9, but trying again to deny the presence of US fighting forces in Laos, White House spokesman Ziegler endeavoured to underline the difference between what he called "US casualties which result from hostile enemy actions" and those resulting from "ground combat operations." Said an *AFP* correspondent in Washington: "This nuance satisfies neither the newsmen nor a good many Congressmen."

In the United States

VICTORY AGAINST FASCIST CHICAGO TRIAL

ON Feb. 14 and 15 this year, the US district Court passed sentences on the Chicago 7 charged with "conspiring to incite riots" during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The 7 are David T. Dellinger, Rennie David, Thomas E. Hayden, Abbott "Abbie" Hoffman, Jerry C. Rubin, John R. Froiness and Lee Weiner. The Court also convicted the two defence lawyers, William M. Kunstler and Leonard Weinglas.

District Judge Jubus J. Hoffman gave jail terms ranging from 6 to 30 months to the 7 defendants and the 2 attorneys for "Contempt of Court," simply because these persons had resolutely rejected the false evidence and groundless accusations during previous court hearings.

The illegal sentences touched off angry protest from American progressives. While Judge Hoffman was reading the verdict, the Court room rocked with shouts of "Heil Hitler," and about 200 protesters stood outside with placards demanding the immediate release of the convicted. On the same day in Washington, 400 protesters including many clergymen marched to the West Gate of the White House in a cold drizzle after holding a rally. In addition to calling for an end to the Viet Nam war, they protested the illegal Chicago trial.

On Feb. 15, the American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement saying the "contempt" charge in the Chicago trial was, "unconstitutional."

On Feb. 16 and 17, thousands of people again gathered round Chicago's Federal Court building to protest against the prison terms imposed on the 7 anti-war defendants and their 2 lawyers. A group of youth marched round the building, chanting, "You can't jail truth!" and "Jail the Judge!"

On Feb. 17, Wilston, National Chairman of the CPUSA, and Gus Hall, the Party's Secretary General, put out a statement saying that Judge Hoffman's terror acts indicated that America was a police state. The statement urged that the sentences be annulled and that Hoffman be punished for his unlawful behaviour. On the same day, in Seattle (Washington), thousands of demonstrators stormed the Federal Court building. They hoisted a red flag on top of the building's flag pole along with a banner demanding an end to the Viet Nam war and freedom for the Chicago 7. They hurled rocks, paints and even tear gas into the Court room. Police tried to break up the demonstration and many of them were injured after clashes with protesters. At least 80 arrests were made. This incensed popular indignation.

On Feb. 20, about 200 students in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) held a rally at the war memorial centre. Many speakers exposed the fascist character of the Chicago trial. After the meeting they marched through the downtown area.

On Feb. 21, in Washington, about 4,000 people gathered at a square near the Justice Department then marched through Constitution Avenue towards the Washington Monument and the White House, shouting slogans against the Chicago trial and demanding the immediate release of the convicted men pending appeal and of other political prisoners. Demonstrators hauled down American flags at the base of the Washington Monument in protest against the country's legal institution! Washington authorities used tear gas and clubs against the demonstrators and made 112 arrests.

On the same day, in Chicago, more than 7,000 people staged another demonstration outside the Court House then marched to the Cook Country jail, a distance of 6 miles, where the 7 were detained to press for their immediate release. The demonstrators chanted such slogans as "Jail Hoffman!" and "Jail the Pigs!", and distributed leaflets calling on Americans to "show their solidarity" with the Chicago 7. US rulers mobilised more than 1,000 policemen to break up the action. Similar protests took place on the same day in many other cities including Miami (Florida), Milwaukee (Wisconsin), Los Angeles (California), Baltimore (Iowa), etc...

On Feb. 23, some 5,000 New Yorkers assembled outside the public library in the centre of the city, then paraded for hours along Fifth Avenue to Madison Square, carrying signs protesting against the Chicago trial and for the immediate release of the 7, an

(Continued page 9)

STORY OF A FARMNG COOPERATIVE

(Continued from page 5)

In 1968, the co-op reaped:

Potato	:	91 tons	(6.3 times more than in 1965)
Vegetables	:	5 —	(1.2 —)
Beans	:	3,334 —	(3.6 —)
Pea-nut	:	9,105 —	(2.5 —)

The co-op's income has been higher year after year. In 1969, gross output value reached 147,100 *dong*- and real income 71,290 *dong*.

On an average, each working person earns 250 *dong* annually, not including the proceeds from his private plot (making up for about 45% of the total earnings of each co-op farmer). A group of 16 old men run a collective orchard. The sale of oranges yielded 500 *dong* in 1967 and 2,000 *dong* in 1968. Fruits was sold to co-op members who received an average 5 kilos per household in 1968. The old men also tend the trees they plant themselves along the village lanes. Pending the 5-year period when these trees supply timber for the building of dwelling houses, men and animals can already relax themselves under their shades on sunny days.

Grent attention is paid to animal husbandry to palliate the unbalance between cultivation and stock-breeding. At the beginning of 1965, a collective piggery was set up. This collective stock-breeding was a sort of pilot project. It still met with many difficulties in finding fodder for the animals, in techniques and in management. However, it is clear that family animal husbandry will never be able to make technique progress. The collective pigs must, step by step, become a model for family ones whose development is also encouraged. Animal husbandry supplies both meat and manure. The herd of pigs keeps growing to 382 head in 1969 as against 256 in 1965. The target fixed by the government for animal husbandry — an average 2 pigs per cultivated hectare, will be reached in 1970.

Hydraulic planning has facilitated fish-rearing. A 250-acre pond has been used for this purpose. A 6-person group specializes in this activity. Thanks to an ingenious system, the fry scatter about the fields to search for food and will return to the pond only when the fields run dry. In this way, their weight increases rapidly. In 1966, the catch gave 1,700 kg of fish. The haul was 2,000 kg in 1969. Fish is sold to co-op members at State price.

With the diversification of agriculture, the diet of the peasant is more varied. Apart from rice, which remains the staple food, there are potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, vegetables, fruit, etc. Stock breeding and fish rearing add to the source of proteins. From another angle, peanuts, vegetables, fruit trees and fish earn a valuable cash income for the co-op.

IMPROVEMENT OF TECHNIQUES

AFTER hydraulic planning, the introduction of new techniques becomes the essential factor of increased production. To this end, a technico-scientific group was formed in 1966. It comprised to members chosen among the peasants who had distinguished themselves in production brigades by their technical and practical knowledge. The co-op has put at their disposal 3.96 ha to be used as experimental plots and an amount of equipment. The group has been entrusted with experimenting new techniques and applying them in the concrete conditions of the co-op and, particularly, preparing seeds and detecting diseases and pests.

Since 1965, the College of Agriculture has transferred its 3-year classes to the village for the students to acquaint themselves with the facts of life. Relations have been established between the school and the co-op, the school undertaking to disseminate new techniques and help the co-op apply them.

FERTILIZERS

INTENSIVE culture gives rise in the first place to the problem of fertilizers.

As home industry is not yet in a position to supply chemical fertilizers, it is the organic fertilizers and especially litter that play the most important role. For this reason, great attention has been paid to pig raising. To incite the peasants to sell manure to the co-op, besides launching an emulation movement, it is decided to pay for the manure in paddy. Thus, the co-op gives 10 kg of paddy rice for 100kg of good quality manure.

Green manure is the target of a systematic campaign. *Azolla* tops the list. It is a fast proliferating aquatic plant. It covers the fields with a layer which slows down the evaporation of the water and kills weeds. In hot weather, it withers and deposits at the bottom of the fields, providing a fertilizer rich in nitrogene.

At the beginning of 1963, the Ngo Xuyen co-op sent several girl peasants to crash courses of azolla nursing opened by the district administration. It was grown on a large-scale at the co-op from 1965. Since 1967, it has been cultivated on the whole acreage under rice and has supplied the equivalent of 400 tons of manure. The technico-scientific group undertakes to purchase seeds and multiply them for production brigades.

There is another green manure, the *sesbania cannabica*. At Ngo Xuyen, the old folks are assigned the job of collecting the seeds of the plant, sowing them on the edges of the lanes and distributing seedlings to the production brigades. The plants are grown along with summer rice in rows of 2 metres apart. They are buried after the rice harvest to fertilize the ground. At the outset, this green manure met with some resistance on the part of the peasants. Because of lack of experience, the shrubs were allowed to overgrow rice plants, thus hampering the latter's chlorophyl assimilation. As a result, rice yield diminished. Moreover, the fields grown with this green manure were hard to harrow. Nevertheless, the results obtained in the raising of crop yield finally overcome everybody's reserve. What is more, the plant give good fire-wood. That is no mean advantage at all.

NEW SEEDS

FOR centuries, more than 30 varieties of rice have been cultivated at Ngo Xuyen, many of which have degenerated and given a low yield.

New varieties with a high yield have been supplied by the State. Their adoption was not easy because of the ancestral habits of the peasants. The co-op management decided in 1967 to cultivate in great quantity the *moc tuyen*, a new variety of Summer rice, but the heads of production brigades preferred to it an ancient variety they had get used to. The co-op chairman took a drastic decision by having the rice seedlings uprooted and the *moc tuyen* put in their place. The eventual excellent harvest proved he was right.

From then on, each time there is a new variety of rice, the technico-scientific group deems it necessary to conduct an experiment on it. Only if the results are satisfactory does it multiply the seeds. And this species is cultivated on a large-scale only after several harvests.

At present, only new high-yield varieties are cultivated at Ngo Xuyen. There are, for the Autumn cultivation, the *moc tuyen*, the *nep cai* (glutinous rice) and the "828" and for the Winter-Spring cultivation, the *dong xuan* 4, the *dong xuan* 5 and the *chan trau lun*.

In the last few years, the peasants' interest has been focused on the Spring rice. A short-term and high yield variety, it is transplanted in February and harvested in May. Combined with the cultivation of the longer-term Summer rice, it allows the spreading of the tilling and transplanting jobs over several months, thereby alleviating the strains in the use of man-power and the draught force. Its cultivation makes it possible to intercalate *azolla* in between 2 rice crops. However, it calls for much more manure, better tending and a stricter observance of the agricultural calendar than the varieties of Summer rice. This explains one thing: not all Ngo Xuyen peasants have voted for it. Anyhow, it opens up a broad vista and has already covered 65% of the sown acreage of the Winter-Spring cultivation at Ngo Xuyen.

BETTER TENDING AND TOOLS

FOR centuries the Vietnamese peasant has epitomized farming in this concise formula: "Water, manure, labour, seeds."

Rice cultivation has always partaken of gardening.

The Ngo Xuyen co-op has known how to glorify its traditions of labour. For each job, it has set suitable norms.

So, a field should be ploughed twice. The ancient plough has been 100% either improved or replaced with a new model-plough 51 which bites into the ground more deeply and upturns its clods in more regular rows, thereby making it possible to kill all weeds.

Harrowing which should be done 3 or 4 times on a field is still done with the help of an outdated implement.

Especially, rice transplanting has seen much improvement. Co-op farmers are taught close-planting in straight lines, and many old women, at first, jibbed at the innovation. Now that the habit has been acquired, they no longer need a rope to keep the rows straight. In recent years, the co-op has popularised a new method of transplanting, more rapid, and the plants thrusted less deeply into the soil grow again faster. Young girls have followed courses to this effect and put their knowledge into practice upon their return. The method, however, has not yet been followed by all the women who are reluctant to learn the new motions. It is the same with weeding which must be done with the help of a new tool-weeder 64-B. This is highly effective and permits better stirring up of the mud in the rice-fields. The women, however, still prefer the old model which, they say, is lighter, or simply their hands.

The new communication lines allow the use of improved hand carts. When they are fitted with ball-bearings, they can carry a 200-kg load. They "liberate the shoulders" of the women hitherto used to carry everything dangling from the ends of a pole.

Mechanisation has been off to a cautious start. The co-op has purchased a Diesel motor which activates a rice-husking machine and two rudimentary threshers.

The use of threshers has not yet been a common practice, because it is not convenient to move them, especially to move the Diesel motor when it is put into operation during the harvest. Neither is it easy to repair in case of breakdown. Many still prefer manual threshing. The rice-husking machine is more appreciated. It frees the women from the daily tedious job of preparing rice for the family. At night, are no longer heard at Ngo Xuyen the humming of the mills and the hammering of the pounders, so typical of the traditional Vietnamese countryside.

IN 10 years, farming at Ngo Xuyen has changed little by little in quite many aspects; today a peasant who had not been back to his village since 1960 would be greatly astonished and have many things to learn. The machines are not yet available there, but progress in agriculture is not confined to mechanisation. This mechanisation, Ngo Xuyen is however ready to welcome it.

(To be continued)

VICTORY...

(Continued from page 8)

end to terror and repression against the Black Panthers, freedom for all political prisoners, withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam, etc... South Viet Nam NFL flags were seen fluttering amidst the portraits of the Chicago 7. Police made 5 arrests.

On Feb. 25, the American Civil Liberties Union filed an "Amicus Curiae"—friend of court—brief at the US Appeals Court demanding that the Chicago 7 be freed immediately pending appeals. Ramsey Clark was among the signatories to the petition which dismissed Hoffman's contention that the prisoners' release would be a danger as a pretext to keep them in jail illegally.

INITIAL VICTORY

UNDER pressure not only from the American public but also from the whole progressive mankind, the US Appeals Court in Chicago was compelled on Feb. 28, to admit the 7 leaders of the anti-war movement to bail. According to *Reuter*, the Appeals Court, in its ruling, said the government had failed to show that the 7 were "dangerous within the meaning of the bail reform act," and bailed the defendants pending the hearings of their appeals. According to the same source, after coming out of jail, the 7 strongly denounced the harsh prison regime and told pressmen about "the terrible conditions in the jail" where, they said, "people are treated like animals." Abbie Hoffman declared "The 7 and young people all over America were involved in a life-and-death struggle to see if free men and free women can walk on a free planet." When the 7 leaders emerged from the Federal Court's building, they were mobbed by a crowd of supporters. For 15 minutes the 7 were embraced and kissed and supporters shouted "Right on!"

This was a substantial victory for the American progressives and the anti-war movement. Yet, it was only an initial one. The US Appeals Court is considering the motions of appeal while the Administration is seeking ways and means to convict and imprison the 7. American public opinion and the world at large strongly critical of the verdict of the Chicago trial is closely following the handling of the case by the US Appeals Court.

ENEMY LOSSES IN FEBRUARY

Central Trung Bo: Nearly 7,000 enemy casualties (1,900 GIs and 650 South Korean mercenaries) reported, 23 planes downed, 230 military vehicles and 26 cannons destroyed, 26 fuel tanks burnt.

Eastern Nam Bo (including Saigon): Nearly 4,000 adverse soldiers and 350 military vehicles put out of action, 30 aircraft downed or destroyed, 40 combat vessels sunk or set afire.

Tri Thien (between Hue and the 17th parallel): Nearly 1,200 enemy troops (717 GIs) disabled, 52 planes grounded, 56 military vehicles (42 tanks and armoured cars) destroyed.

Western High Plateaux: 1,100 adverse casualties (342 GIs), 14 aircraft 90 military vehicles and 7 cannons put out of commission.

Mekong Delta: Over 4,000 enemy troops knocked out, 100 military vehicles (mostly tanks and armoured cars), 13 cannons, 26 aircraft and 12 combat launches destroyed, sunk or burnt.

FROM FEBRUARY 20 TO MARCH 4, 1970

— 2 puppet battalions decimated and over 200 enemy casualties at Ehuoc Long, Soc Trang province (night of March 2).

— 2 puppet battalions and 1 armoured squadron badly mauled in Vinh Thuan district, Rach Gia province (Feb. 21).

— One 10,000-ton ship and one 12,000-ton vessel hit and burnt on Long Tau and Dong Tranh rivers, Ba Ria province (Feb. 27).

— 1 company of US First Cav. wiped out at Rum Duon, Tay Ninh province (March 4).

— 275 GIs and 31 tanks and armoured cars wiped out at Que Son and in Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province (Feb. 20-24).

"IT IS TO BE BLAMED"

WHO is "it"? It is because of "it" that Ba, a respectable school-master who loves his trade, could not satisfactorily discharge his duty. It is because of "it" that he got into trouble.

Who is "it"? "It" is not that insentient Suzuki motorcycle which was responsible for his predicament. "It" is the clique of American aggressors and traitors to the country. Because of "it" a teacher is worth less than a whore. "It" is the curse of honest people and the blessing of those of bad repute such as panders and procuresses who, thanks to "its" favour, can play ducks and drakes with their money.

We print below the story "It Is To Be Blamed" from a vernacular paper in Saigon. — Editor.

THAT morning, Ba, a teacher, got up rather late. He hurriedly pushed out his red Suzuki, and suddenly he thought of his sun helmet, turned round and said, "Give me my sun helmet," while starting his engine.

His wife who was frying rice for the children in the kitchen, brought him a grey hat and said: "Mind the American cars, they always run over people!"

"Don't you worry! Well, if I come home late at noon, send Ho to the school to tell Nam, my colleague, to take my class."

Ba set out, followed by his wife's gaze. "A school teacher has to eke out his living," she grumbled, "by 'clasping' pillion passengers."

Since Japanese motorcycles have become so popular in this country, they are used to ferry passengers into and from the rural areas. Both driver and passenger sit so closely that they are said to "clasp" each other, a position which rather suits lovers and "chums."

For others, poverty can drive them into evil doing, but for Ba, he just carried passengers on his motorbike for some extra earnings. Others may let their daughters work as barmaids and their wives as housekeepers for the Yankees, but Ba would rather remain poor.

He bought a Suzuki motorbike on credit.

"How honourable is work," he thought. "The society exists thanks to the labour of toiling people and not to idlers who have nothing to do but take care of their manicured hands and powdered faces." Theoretically, the reasoning was sound! But to carry pillion passengers dressed as he was in a shabby hat, clothes and sandals made him feel uncomfortable: chiefly when he rode past his school he could not help lowering the brim of his hat; sometimes pupils' parents who knew him would turn away so as not to embarrass him.

With the odd money earned — about one hundred piastres every day — his family fared better the last few months.

Ba was at first a good teacher devoted to his pupils; he was often commended by the Elementary Education Department. Since he became a hired-bike driver, he neglected his duty: he would come late to the class-room and leave it ahead of time; and frequently asked for sick-leave.

After a morning of riding, he would arrive at the school exhausted, flinging his hat on his desk. Once home, he peeled off his "battle dress," swallowed a few grains of rice and went to bed early. He would sleep through the night and his wife had no one to turn to, poor woman!

Finding no passengers at Hoc Mon market place, Ba rode to Thu Duc landing stage. A ferry boat was just coming alongside the wharf. Two girls in Western dresses jumped on shore. They were Vietnamese in flesh and blood but their curly hair, made-up faces, painted eyebrows, together with their bare legs and provocative standing-out breasts bespoke foreign influence and utter disregard for Vietnamese manners and customs; they were born on this S-shape land but rode rough-shod on the fine traditions handed down by our ancestors; they had forsaken the neat black pajamas and the graceful tunics worn by well-bred girls.

They were looked askance at by the crowd. Another driver would be eager to pick up such customers, but Ba did not budge.

"Hey! Old man, you are free? Okey!" one of the girl addressed the man, pouting her red lips and they nimbly jumped on the pillion.

Ba controlled his anger and asked, "How much will you pay me?"

"500 piastres," they said. "OK? Now ride on!"

The Suzuki carried two "local European girls" on the tar-macadamized road No. 8 in the sweltering heat.

Freshened by the wind, they began to hum a tune quite alien to Ba's ears and beat time with their knees. For him the song conveyed no meaning. It sounded like a dog's howling and, added to the noise of the engine, made a queer rumbling. Their scent was heady.

The overbearing girls went on with their rumpus unaware that in these newfangled times there was a devoted teacher who could not make both ends meet and had to scrape off a living by carrying two prostitutes who managed to make a packet in this vale of tears.

"Stop."

The girls got down and hurried into a snack-bar. One of them turned round and said to Ba: "Wait there!" A tall American flashed a hideous grin, baring his white teeth. He flung open his hairy arms and buried the two curly heads in his arm-pits. They were like two baby buffaloes disputing the dugs of their mother-buffalo.

A jazz band struck up inside. The three bodies whirled round and round.

Outside Ba was impatiently waiting for the fares near his motorbike.

It struck twelve. In the bar, the screechy music went on. How could he get the money and report for work at a quarter to one after covering 20 kilometres from there to his house. And how could he have time for his meal before going to the school? He looked daggers at the bar.

If he left, he would lose 500 piastres; where would his wife find the money for shopping the next morning? If he kept on waiting, he would miss the class as the girls were still dallying away with the Yankee.

From time to time he started the engine and raced it noisily to attract the attention of his "customers." Sweat beaded his scrubby chin and streamed down his jacket.

Suddenly he saw a navy-blue car driving past at full lick. His heart fluttered. The car—a Willys type supplied to the government under a US aid program—bore the inscription: "National Education Ministry—Elementary Education Department." How could he make it before the inspector arrived.

He started his Suzuki and rode hell for leather.

He wondered whether he should change his clothes or go directly to the school. Would he receive a sharp rap on the knuckles because of negligence of his duty?

A gloomy atmosphere prevailed in Ba's house. His wife was silently packing up his things for him. The next morning he would go to take up a new assignment in a far-away place.

She felt pity for him. In these troubled times, would he be fortunate enough to surmount the difficulties ahead? All his eight children were awake. They fidgetted around him. Some of them cried: "Don't ride your Suzuki any more and the inspector will return you to us soon," they said.

"I will sell it" Ba hemmed and hawed. "It is to be blamed. Behave well at home, don't ask mother for cakes. Now she can no longer afford them."

Outside, the wind was moaning in the leaves as if it was sharing the sadness of a devoted teacher who was being transferred to a remote area.

Through the Saigon Press

Promoters, Profiteers and Victims of Prostitution in South Viet Nam

ONE of the greatest social scourges caused by the presence of a huge US expeditionary force in South Viet Nam is prostitution, now becoming the most "roaring trade." It is an intolerable offence to Viet Nam's national dignity. Who are responsible for it? Who profit from this depravity of morals? Even the Saigon "legal" press had to comment on it.

In its issues of Dec. 18, 19 and 20, 1969, *Tieng Noi Dan Toc* (Voice of the Nation) carried an article entitled "Yellow Slave Market in Tay Do."* The article said:

"One wonders what the Hung kings — the first rulers of our country — would think when the street named after them in that nice city has now become a thriving Yellow Slave market. Would they fly into a passion in face of that flagrant profanation, or would they remain unruffled like one of our ministers which once stated: 'The Americans are in need of girls, and we of dollars. What's wrong with such a transaction?'"

Tin Sang (Morning News) wrote on Jan. 3, 1970:

"A proverb runs: 'Where there is paddy, there pigeons come.' Now another one says: 'Where there are GIs, there snack-bars mushroom and the sex trade, the illicit traffic of dollars and murder are ripe.'"

With regard to the victims of this social curse plaguing the enemy-controlled areas in South Viet Nam, the same article of *Tieng Noi Dan Toc* cited the following case:

"A militaryman reported as missing in an operation left a 34-year-old wife and six children, the eldest being 10. The meagre allowance she had received (on that occasion) did not last her long. The 200 piastres she earned everyday was enough for her to buy only 4 litres of rice. She was obliged to turn herself into a plaything to be able to support her large family. Isn't she more sinned against than sinning?"

* *City of Can Tho.*